SMPTO Meeting

held at IFEC Libarary on

October 3, 2013

1. **Call to order/Welcome**

* The Meeting was called to order by the PTO Secretary (the President arrived shortly after) at 7:03PM
* Introductions were made by the PTO Board, the Principals of IFEC and Rice, teacher representatives and meeting attendees.
  1. Those in attendance included: Elizabeth Meikrantz (PTO President), Kerrie Truax (IFEC Vice-President), Stacey Knavel (Rice Co-Vice President), Jes Hughes (Rice Co-Vice President), Jennifer Varner (Treasurer), Jennifer Metz (Secretary), Dr. Adams - Principal at IFEC, Mr. Boley - Principal at Rice. We had 1 teacher representative (Joetta Sunday) and 11 guests. Shawn Knavel (Rice Co-Vice President) was unable to attend this meeting.
* Those who attended the meeting were asked to sign in on the attendance sheet

1. **Approval of Minutes from previous meeting**

* The board members who were present unanimously approved the minutes from the September 2013 meeting. Copies of the meeting minutes are posted on the PTO website at http://www.smsd.us/webpages/pto/pto.cfm

1. **Principal Reports/School Board Representative**

* Mr. Boley gave a report on W G Rice Elementary
  1. He reminded those in attendance of the upcoming events for Rice: School Picture Day (October 10th), Bubblethon Student Walk-a-thon Event (October 18th), Parent Teacher Conference will occur in November
  2. Fall field trips are currently underway for all grades at Rice.

Kindergarten - Paulus Orchards for apple and pumpkin picking

1st Grade- Meadowbrooke Gourd Farm

2nd Grade- Frank "Little Bear" is visiting the school

3rd Grade - Lake Tobias

3) There is an Inservice Day on October 14 (No school)

* Dr. Adams gave a report for IFEC
  1. She reported that 4th Grade will be going on their field trip to Landis Valley Farm in Lancaster in mid-October.
  2. School pictures will be October 10th
  3. Bubblethon Student Walk-a-thon Event will be October 21st.
  4. Parent Teacher Conference will occur in mid-November.
  5. She reported on the most recent School Board Meeting held on Monday, September, 30th that was scheduled to present the proposed ideas for a building renovation for IFEC. The IFEC building is actually the original Boiling Springs School that was built in the 1920s. Over the years, this school has housed various different grades and has been renovated several times. The preliminary plans for expansion/ renovation were presented to the school board on 9/30/13 with 4 possible options (including renovating/ expanding the building to accommodate grades 3-5 with the plans to relieve the overcrowding at Rice). The final board vote on which option to pursue will occur on 10/7/13.

NOTE: Parents/ Family members were encouraged to contact the school

board via email to voice their opinions about these proposals.

* There was no school board report as there was not a school board representative present at this meeting.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

* Jennifer Varner provided the Treasurer's Report.
  1. The account balances are as follows - Checking account is $27,351.03; Raffle account is $1,385; Savings account is $15,019.40.
  2. Our major expenses include subsidizing fall field trips, copying/ mailing for Bubblethon, teacher appreciation gifts, new checks for checking account and new letters for the announcement board outside of Rice.
  3. The money coming in includes sponsorships and donations for Bubblethon.

1. **Correspondence**

* The PTO received several more thank you notes for the monetary donations the PTO provided to teachers for classroom enhancement.
* We also received a thank you note from the IFEC Librarian for the $500 donation the PTO provided to both the Rice and IFEC libraries.

1. **Chair/Committee Reports**
   1. **Fall Fundraiser - *Bubblethon*** - This is the SMPTO's new fall fundraiser! Students will be giving up their recess to walk laps for donations. At Rice, Bubblethon will be on October 18th and at IFEC, it will be on October 21st. At the time of this PTO meeting, the total funds raised were at about $10,000, significantly below the total amount we will need to fund our programs and events for students, families and faculty. We have generously received $3,500 in sponsorships from local businesses which will help to cover the upfront costs to prepare for and hold the Bubblethon event. Student participation is at about 20-25%, we are still hoping for close to 100% participation. Individual amounts of funds raised can be provided by contacting Stacy Knavel at board@smpto.com . The funds raised for this event will help fund or subsidize a number of events at the schools that the PTO sponsors (i.e. Artists in Residence, Book fairs, field trips, Groovy Movies, IFEC Halloween Party, Secret Santa Shop, Mayfair and more!)

**NOTE:** A few suggestions were offered by those who attended the

meeting. One parent offered to post this event information at her place of

business to seek donations and asked for additional information (this was

provided after the meeting). Another parent suggested "canning" (walking

around to people attending the event to seek monetary donations placed in

a jar/ can) at sporting events to get additional donations. This would need

to be cleared with Mr. Deiter. Elizabeth will follow up with this.

* 1. **Box Tops-** Keep turning in your Box Tops! Please send in all those tops you have been saving all summer! Make sure when you send in your Box Tops that you label the bag with your child's name and classroom so that s/he will be credited appropriately. You can also shop through the Box Top website and it will provide box top credits to our schools. Visit https://www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace to log in an shop!
  2. **Giant A+ Rewards** - Sign up your Giant Bonus Card and designate up to two schools (Rice and IFEC) to receive "rewards" for your shopping at Giant. This is no additional expense to you. Just register your card by sending in the form that was recently sent home, going on line or going to the customer service counter and then shop for your groceries.
  3. **Labels for Education** - We are now collecting these labels again! There is a bucket in the entry area at Rice and IFEC to drop of your labels. We are already using the labels we have collected to assist in purchasing recess equipment and storage for this equipment for both IFEC and Rice.
  4. **Spirit Gear** - The Spirit Gear Sale is going on now! In addition, new logo ideas were presented to those in attendance at this meeting for a vote on a favorite. Thank you for all of your input! Look for the new logo design soon!
  5. **Walking Club** - During recess time at IFEC, students will be allowed the opportunity to walk or run laps on the high school track, while being monitored by parent volunteers that will be coordinated by the Walking Club Chairperson. ***So far, the students in 4th and 5th grade have already walked 55 miles!!*** The fourth graders are really working hard and have walked quite a bit already. There may still be slots available to volunteer or be a substitute.
  6. **Groovy Movie** - This event is held 4 times during the school year for the students at the Yellow Breeches Middle School. Students stay after school to watch a movie presentation and have popcorn popped in our own fun machine. ***The first movie is scheduled for Friday, November 8, 2013!***

* 1. **IFEC Halloween Party** - This event will be held on Thursday, October 24th from 6-8 PM at IFEC for the 4th and 5th grade students. There will be a costume contest, pumpkin decorating, games and much more!

\*\* A few chair people are still needed for some committees. Please

contact Kerrie Truax if you are interested in chairing a committee.

Volunteers are also needed to help with a number of areas for this event.

There will be a "time to sign up" link set up on our PTO website under the

"volunteer" link soon! Please help make this a great event!!

1. **Old Business**

* There was no old business to discuss.

1. **New Business**

* **Teacher Grants:** The PTO has been asked to fund a music assembly for grades K - 5. This request was granted to provide musical enrichment to all of the students at both schools. In addition, we are finalizing the purchase a variety of very sturdy playground equipment for both schools. This equipment includes 24 balls (kickballs, footballs, basketballs, playground balls, soccer balls, etc), long and short jump ropes, lemon twists (skip-its) and storage containers that can be wheeled in and out of the building each day for student use.
* During Parent Teacher conferences, the PTO usually provides a dinner for the teachers. This event will need to be discussed in more detail at a future time.
* The Scholastic Book Fair is held at Rice during the Parent Teacher conferences. Volunteers will be needed for this event.
* The Spirit Gear Sale is going on now! The new logo will be rolled out soon!
* Additional events that will be coming up in December: Breakfast with Santa and the Secret Santa Shop (12/3-12/6)! Consider volunteering for one of these festive, fun events!!

1. **Announcements**

* Mr. Boley reported that they have determined a person of interest to fill the vacant librarian position at Rice. This person has a position in another school district so pending school board approval and then the acceptance of his/her resignation from the other school, this person may be hired at the Rice Librarian.
* At the end of the meeting, a parent in attendance at the meeting offered a suggestion of an "App", called "Shoparoo", that you can download for free. Whenever you shop for groceries, you take a photo of your receipt and the school you designate will receive points/ funds. If you purchase one of the featured items of the week or if you invite additional people to join the "app", you receive additional points. It will be looked into if Rice and IFEC could be included in this program and if it can be shared with other shoppers. Thank you for the idea!
* Another person at this meeting suggested the idea of arranging a family movie night at the High School auditorium during the winter months as a fund raiser. This is something that has been done in the past for different charities/ events. It can be looked into again as a possible fund raiser. Thank you for the idea!

1. **Open Floor/ Miscellaneous** - None
2. **Adjournment**

* The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.
* Respectfully submitted for approval at the next PTO meeting by

Jennifer Metz

SMPTO Secretary

**Our next PTO meeting will be held on**

**Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 PM**

**at the IFEC Library.**